

## *“Claiming My ‘Peace’ of Heaven in 2011”*

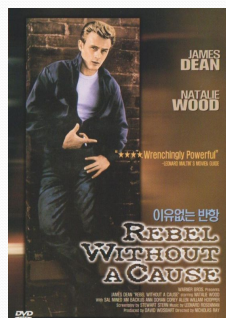
Today’s Lesson

### ***A Spiritual Rebel***

PowerPoint notes available at:

[www.unityofbakersfield.org](http://www.unityofbakersfield.org)

### **A Spiritual Rebel**



**Rebel: a person who refuses allegiance to, resists, or rises in arms against the government or ruler of his or her country.**

(Dictionary.com)

### **A Spiritual Rebel**



**A Rebel Rabbi with a cause:**

***The thief (ego) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance. John 10:10***

### **A Spiritual Rebel**



***Jesus came that we may have life more abundantly; that is, He came to awaken man to the possibilities of his own nature.***

### **A Spiritual Rebel**

**Jesus was keenly conscious of the nature of God and his relationship to God.**

**He understood God to be unlimited love, wisdom, and supply for our every need.**

**He understood that his mission was to connect the thinker (man) with the true source of thought (God).**

### **A Spiritual Rebel**

**The study of sociology tells us that every society sets the standards and establishes a believe system by which it wants its’ members to behave. To violate any of the rules labels one a rebel, deviant, and in the case of religion, a heretic.**

## A Spiritual Rebel



**The First  
Violation  
Forgiveness of  
Sins  
Mark 2: 1-2**

## A Spiritual Rebel

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic and he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some scribes of the law were sitting there, saying "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

## A Spiritual Rebel

So that you may know that the Son of man (human being) has authority to forgive sins...he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all.

The forgiveness of sins was big business for the temple priests.

## A Spiritual Rebel

**The Second  
Violation  
Eating with  
sinners.  
Mark 2: 13-17**



## A Spiritual Rebel

Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

## A Spiritual Rebel

Jesus was taking the act of forgiveness to a whole new level. The level of unconditional love and acceptance. By associating with those who were labeled sinners and unclean by the religious leaders he taught that there is no separation from God. Everyone had equal access, no matter what.

## A Spiritual Rebel

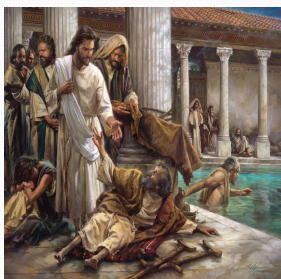


**The Third  
Violation  
Working on the  
Sabbath  
Mark 2: 23-18**

## A Spiritual Rebel

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? He entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

## A Spiritual Rebel



**The Fourth  
Violation  
Healing on the  
Sabbath  
Mark 3: 1-6**

## A Spiritual Rebel

Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot how they might kill Jesus.

## A Spiritual Rebel

Jesus was teaching the people not to live by the letter of the law when that law caused undo pain and suffering. He taught that God did not demand that we suffer because mankind demands we follow blindly their religious rules and regulations.

## A Spiritual Rebel

God desires mercy, not sacrifice (Mark 2:23).

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy (Matt 5:7).

Sow mercy, reap mercy; sow forgiveness, reap forgiveness. You do not need anyone's permission to do these things.

## **A Spiritual Rebel**

**You are here by divine right of consciousness. You have a right to live your life under spiritual law. You have the right to express love and be aware of the love God has for you, without sacrifice. You have the right to let the rebel in you find expression when faced with bondage, pain, and suffering. You have the right to claim the kingdom of God for yourself!**